

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of RUEGER et al.
Serial No.
Filing Date Herewith
Title TIME- AND EVENT-CONTROLLED ACTIVATION
SYSTEM FOR CHARGING AND DISCHARGING
PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that the current is regulated by switching a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) as the function of the time characteristic and the event characteristic to achieve the effective low average current.
4. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that when the current is at a level below a predefined lower threshold, the charge switch remains open for a predefined time interval to allow the current to exhibit a gap.
5. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a charge switch (3) or a discharge switch (5) of the apparatus is switched from an OFF position to an ON position or from the ON position to an OFF position, respectively to allow or stop charging or discharging when an absolute value of the current is respectively equal to or greater than or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.
6. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the apparatus is switched from the OFF position to the ON position to allow

charging or discharging at a predefined time of the time characteristic after the absolute value of the current is equal to or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined lower limit threshold current.

7. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a square-wave signal of a certain frequency is used to switch a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) from an OFF position to an ON position to allow charging or discharging.

8. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) is switched from the ON position to the OFF position when the absolute value of the current is equal to or greater than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.

9. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a desired average current is achieved by varying the time characteristic and the event characteristic.

10. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that a time delay is predefined so that the charge or the discharge switch is switched to the ON position according to the predefined time delay, the predefined time delay being set to trigger when the absolute value of the current equals or is greater than a predefined current threshold.

11. (Amended) Apparatus as according to claim 1, characterized in that the current is not regulated within a current band and exhibits gaps.

14. (Amended) Method as according to claim 11, characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the system is switched from an OFF position to an ON position or from the ON position to an OFF position, respectively to allow or stop charging or discharging when an absolute value of the current is respectively equal to or greater than or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.

15. (Amended) Method as according to claim 11, characterized in that a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the system is switched from the OFF position to the ON position to allow

charging or discharging at a predefined time of the time characteristic after the absolute value of the current is equal to or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined lower limit threshold current.

16. (Amended) Method as according to claim 11, characterized in that a square-wave signal of a certain frequency is used to switch a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) from an OFF position to an ON position to allow charging or discharging and characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) is switched from the ON position to the OFF position when the absolute value of the current is equal to or greater than the event characteristic which is a predefined upper limit threshold current.

18. (Amended) Application in particular eligible for use in a fuel injection system, the fuel injection system preferably using a double acting control valve.

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/2/01

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [claims 1 or 2] claim 1, characterized in that the current is regulated by switching a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) as the function of the time characteristic and the event characteristic to achieve the effective low average current.

4. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that when the current is at a level below a predefined lower threshold, the charge switch remains open for a predefined time interval to allow the current to exhibit a gap.

5. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a charge switch (3) or a discharge switch (5) of the apparatus is switched from an OFF position to an ON position or from the ON position to an OFF position, respectively to allow or stop charging or discharging when an absolute value of the current is respectively equal to or greater than or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.

6. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the apparatus is switched from the OFF position to the ON position to allow charging or discharging at a predefined time of the time characteristic after the absolute value of the current is equal to or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined lower limit threshold current.

7. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a square-wave signal of a certain frequency is used to switch a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) from an OFF position to an ON position to allow charging or discharging.

8. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) is switched from the ON position to the OFF position when the absolute value of the current is equal to or greater than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.

9. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a desired average current is achieved by varying the time characteristic and the event characteristic.

10. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a time delay is predefined so that the charge or the discharge switch is switched to the ON position according to the predefined time delay, the predefined time delay being set to trigger when the absolute value of the current equals or is greater than a predefined current threshold.

11. (Amended) Apparatus as according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the current is not regulated within a current band and exhibits gaps.

14. (Amended) Method as according to [claims 11 or 12] claim 11, characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the system is switched from an OFF position to an ON position or from the ON position to an OFF position, respectively to allow or stop charging or discharging when an absolute value of the current is respectively equal to or greater than or less than the event characteristic which is a predefined limit threshold current.

15. (Amended) Method as according to [claims 11, 12 or 13] claim 11, characterized in that a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) of the system is switched from the OFF position to the ON position to allow charging or discharging at a predefined time of the time characteristic after the absolute value of the current is equal to or less than the event

characteristic which is a predefined lower limit threshold current.

16. (Amended) Method as according to [claims 11 or 12] claim 11, characterized in that a square-wave signal of a certain frequency is used to switch a charge or discharge switch (3, 5) from an OFF position to an ON position to allow charging or discharging and characterized in that the charge or discharge switch (3, 5) is switched from the ON position to the OFF position when the absolute value of the current is equal to or greater than the event characteristic which is a predefined upper limit threshold current.

18. (Amended) Application in particular eligible for use in a fuel injection system, [the fuel injection system according to any of the foregoing claims,] the fuel injection system preferably using a double acting control valve.